

Message Text

SECRET

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64/43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 AID-20 A-01 SY-10 OPR-02

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 /220 W

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O P 101650Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7871

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3719

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG XF PFOR

SUBJ: KUWAIT CALLS FOR MEETING OF ARAB OIL PRODUCERS

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REF: KUWAIT 3701

1. I SAW MINISTER OF OIL AND FINANCE ATEEQI JT 10 TO ASK HIM ABOUT HIS CALL FOR MEETING OF ARAB MINISTERS OF OIL TO STUDY ROLE OF OIL IN LIGHT PRESENT ARAB-ISRAEL FIGHTING (REFTEL).

2. ATEEQI SAID HE HAD SENT INVITATIONS TO ARAB OIL MINISTERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE AT PRESENT IN VIENNA, AND HE STILL AWAITING REPLIES. IN VIEW CURRENT VIENNA TALKS, HE DID NOT EXPECT MEETING IN KUWAIT TO TAKE PLACE FOR SEVERAL DAYS YET. ATEEQI SAID FRANKLY KUWAIT DID NOT WANT TO GET OUT IN FRONT ON SUBJECT OF ROLE OF OIL IN PRESENT CONFLICT, BUT GOK FEELING INCREASINGLY SEVERE PRESSURE FROM RADICAL STATES AND GROUPS, AND ITS OWN LEFTIST ELEMENTS, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS USING "OIL AS WEAPON". IN ANSWER MY QUESTION, ATEEQI SAID KUWAIT DOES NOT RPT NOT INTEND TAKE LEAD IN MEETING OR INDEED SAY ANYTHING IT DOES NOT NEED TO. TACTIC WILL BE TO LET OTHERS DO TALKING AND RECOMMENDING, AND HOPEFULLY MAJORITY WILL COME TO SOME REALISTIC CONCLUSIONS REGARDING OIL'S ROLE IN PRESENT SITUATION. IN ANY CASE, KUWAIT WILL HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH MEETING'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. ATEEQI THEN LAUNCHED INTO BITTER ATTACK ON US STIPULATION THAT WARRING PARTIES MUST RETURN TO PRE-OCT 6 LINES IN ITS CALL FOR CEASE FIRE. HE SAID KUWAITI CABINET HAD DEBATED MATTER AT LENGTH WCD WAS "ANGRY AND PUZZLED" AT US POSITION. THIS WAS FARTHEST US HAD YET GONE IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL SINCE IT WAS, IN EFFECT, US RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO HOLD THOSE LINES. ATEEQI SAID NEWS OF IMMEDIATE US REPLACEMENT OF ISRAELI AIRCRAFT LOSSES, THREATENING MOVEMENTS OF SIXTH FLEET, AND DISPATCH OF VOLUNTEERS FROM SUCH FRIENDS OF US AS AUSTRALIA (SIC) WAS ALSO DEEPLY DISTRESSING. ATEEQI SAID US SEEMED DETERMINED USE ISRAEL AS INSTRUMENT FOR FURTHER DEFEATING AND HUMILIATING ARABS. IF US WANTED CONTROL ARAB WORLD, ARABS WOULD PREFER US DO SO DIRECTLY AND OPENLY, NOT PUSH ARAB NOSES IN MUD THROUGH ISRAEL.

4. I TOLD ATEEQI THAT HIS FACTS WERE WRONG AND I HAD TO COMPLETELY REJECT HIS CONCLUSIONS. I HAD NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION ON REPLACEMENT OF ISRAELI AIRCRAFT, AND MY UNDERSTANDING WAS SIXTH FLEET MOVEMENTS WERE NOT INTENDED TO INFLUENCE COURSE OF FIGHTING. US CALL FOR CEASE FIRE WAS GENUINE HUMANITARIAN MOVE, AND CALL

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TO RETURN TO PRE-OCT 6 LINES WAS MADE IN SINCERE BELIEF THAT TALKS BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAEL IMPERATIVE, AND THOSE LINES BEST PLACE TO START FROM. ATEEQI SAID IF NEWS ITEMS BEING REPEATED CONSTANTLY THROUGHOUT WORLD REGARDING CURRENT ADDITIONAL US MILITARY SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND THREATENING MOVEMENTS OF SIXTH FLEET WERE WRONG, THEY SHOULD BE DENIED OFFICIALLY AND CATEGORICALLY BY USG. AS FAR AS RETURN TO PRE-OCT LINES CONCERNED, THIS REMAINED UNWARRANTED US BIAS TOWARD ISRAEL AT THIS CRITICAL

JUNCTURE, AND WOULD BE REJECTED AS INSULT TO ARABS. DID US
SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ITSELF UNBIASED IN OPPOSING ARAB EFFORT TO
REGAIN ITS OWN LANDS?

5. I REITERATED US VIEW THAT FOCUS NOW SHOULD BE ON ENDING OF
FIGHTING AND BEGINNING OF TALKS. TALKS IMPOSSIBLE UNLESS BOTH
SIDES READY TO SIT DOWN. WE BELIEVE BEST CHANCE FOR THIS WAS
RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE.

6. ATEEQI EXPRESSED FERVENT HOPE US WOULD CHANGE ITS MIND SOON.

7. OUR TALK ON PARTICIPATION BY SEPTTEL.
STOLTZFUS

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NNN

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